

Appln. No.: 09/273,021

Amdt. Dated: June 10, 2003

Reply to Office Action of March 10, 2003

REMARKS

Claim 1, 3, 10, 19 and 20 remain in the application. Claims 2, 4-9 and 11-18 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 19 and 20 are independent.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application.

The claims are directed to a novel and precise method of composing a patent application, albeit a patent application known to be well known. The precise steps produce a very precise patent that applicant has found overcomes many of the problems that cause very expensive issues in litigation. Although, the prior art is all around it does not suggest the specific combination of steps recited herein.

Independent claims 1, 19 and 20 recite a patentable combination of steps; to wit, storing a duplicate set of claims, grammatically editing the duplicate claims, and automatically assigning reference numerals in the order of recitation or occurrence of the elements in the duplicate set of claims as edited, i.e., automatically shifting the reference numerals when the order of occurrence of the elements change in the description (as described in lines 17 et seq. of page 7). The Takano '580 patent document does not suggest such a combination. Just because the summary language in Takano matches the claim language does not suggest the step of getting it there nor does it suggest copying the claims into the description. As recognized by the Examiner, Takano does not disclose the orderly assignment of reference numerals to elements in the order of occurrence. To order to further distinguish, claim 1 also recites that the sequence of reference numerals is automatically shifted when the order of occurrence of the elements in the description is changed, e.g., as by editing. Applicant's steps are obvious only when viewed in hindsight.

Accordingly, the application is now considered to be in condition for allowance, or at least in a better condition for appeal.

Applicant is submitting hereto the required fee for the attached Request for Continued Examination, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional

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fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account 08-2789. Further and favorable reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted

June 10, 2003

Date



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this **Amendment** for U.S. Serial No.: 09/273,021 filed March 19, 1999 is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to **Mailstop: RCE**; Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on **June 10, 2003**.



Anne L. Kubit